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**Creating a viable, balanced  
King County budget  
for our community**



**King County**

Dear Friend,

It is truly an honor to serve the citizens of King County Council District Eight. Over the past several years I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people—from White Center, Boulevard Park, South Park, Vashon, West Seattle, Burien and throughout King County—as together we tackle the difficult challenges facing our local communities.



**Councilmember  
Dow Constantine**

Our most daunting task this year was adopting a budget that meets the needs of our citizens. Revenues are relatively flat. Demand for services and the cost of delivering those services is increasing. The County continues to struggle to find ways to provide all the quality services that our citizens expect and deserve.

As vice-chair of the Council's Budget Committee, I am proud of our accomplishment this year in crafting a balanced 2005 County budget. We continued to strive for increased efficiencies and better ways of providing services. We focused on community priorities and invested in the programs that will provide the greatest return on investment.

You have entrusted me with a great responsibility. I work hard every day to justify that trust. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
Metropolitan King County Council  
District Eight

**Winter 2005**



# Greater Highline Budget Highlights

As a member of the Budget Leadership team, I worked throughout the past several months to produce an efficient and effective budget. I was also careful to ensure that the needs of our local community were met.

## White Center/Boulevard Park Work Crew

Last year I was able to secure a part-time work crew for White Center and Boulevard Park to pick up garbage, paint out graffiti, and help in community renewal efforts. The work crew also assisted code enforcement officers to make our neighborhoods cleaner and safer. This program has been very successful, and so I am proud that we were able to increase funding for 2005 and provide a **full-time** work crew for our North Highline communities.

## Highline Senior Center

The 2005 budget once again includes funding for the Highline Senior Center to help keep this important community facility open and operating. The center is a vital part of our community, providing services and activities for many hundreds of seniors throughout the Burien and North Highline area.

## Southwest Boys and Girls Club

Feed Washington, a nonprofit, grass-roots organization in our state, recently donated \$1,440 in support of the Southwest Boys and Girls Club meal program. The County has agreed to match that donation and provide another 4,320 meals for needy kids at the club. This partnership between the Boys and Girls Club, Feed Washington, and the County will maximize our investment in the struggle to end childhood hunger in our community. The Southwest Boys and Girls Club will also continue to receive funding from the County to continue their many other valuable programs.

## White Center Sidewalk Improvements

One of the biggest concerns I have heard from the White Center business community is the deterioration of local sidewalks. Businesses need safe and attractive pedestrian access to encourage shopping. My office worked with the community in 2004 to look at the cost of replacing the sidewalks along 16th Ave SW. I was then able to designate funds in next year's

budget to create better pedestrian access for downtown White Center. This improvement, along with other work being done by the Community Development Association and the Chamber of Commerce, will be a boon to the heart of White Center.

## Roxbury Medical Clinic

The rising cost of health insurance has made it impossible for many citizens to receive quality health care. Thankfully, we have medical clinics in our community that provide medical care for those who need it, regardless of ability to pay. The dedicated staff at the Roxbury Medical Clinic operate on a shoestring—they even contribute their own earnings to keep the clinic running. King County recognizes the need to invest in healthy families, and the 2005 budget includes funds to help offset some of the cost of unreimbursed care at the clinic. You too can help. Contact Dr. Gwen Marcus at 206-763-5057 or [gmarcus@hchnet.org](mailto:gmarcus@hchnet.org)

## Highline Historical Society

Remembering and celebrating our community's past is critical to building its future. The Highline Historical Society has undertaken an ambitious project to preserve our heritage through constructing a historical museum to house its extensive collection and share the story of Highline with future generations. The County has partnered in this effort, and the 2005 budget sets aside funds to help move it forward.

## Cleaning up White Center and Boulevard Park with "SOAP" and "SODA"

The communities of White Center and Boulevard Park have been working hard to spruce up business districts and improve neighborhood character. Unfortunately, drug dealing and street prostitution sometimes creeps in, chasing customers away from legitimate local businesses.

I sponsored, and worked with the Sheriff's Office to push through, legislation designed to get the drug dealers and prostitutes off our community's streets. The ordinances, Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution ("SOAP") and Stay Out of Drug Areas ("SODA"), allow a judge to order someone convicted of a drug- or prostitution-related crime to stay away from designated areas (downtown White Center and Boulevard Park). SOAP and SODA will help citizens take back our communities, creating safer places to shop, socialize, and grow up.

